

The ANSGAR LUTHERAN

Lost a Little Boy

The Faithless "Why?"

By Ansgar Christensen, Tilley, Alberta, Canada

When adversity strikes the Christian, the temptation is great to ask in bitterness, "Why, oh why, Thou let this happen to me?" Crisis builds up in the spiritual and emotional life and reason can not tip the balance when faith and reason are put to a test.

There are not many homes where infants have not experienced the pleasure of a young child winning his way into the hearts of his father and mother. As the months go by the child grows more and more lively and feels the responsive love being given him. He grows stronger as soon as he kicks harder with his fat legs. He rocks his crib so that it is heard in any part of the house. His cheeks become soft and warm against those of his parents. His inquisitive smile and giggle give rise to laughter from his mamma and papa. The child's eyes become bright and more observant. Little novelties delight and fascinate him. As the months pass on his hair grows longer and curly. Dark blue eyes, long lashes, shine out from the rosy transparent complexion of his face. Soon he begins to crawl and his parents begin to wonder how early he will take his first steps.

For the parents of such a child, the date of his first birthday will be a little empty and sad. There will not be a candle on his birthday cake on Feb. 27, because Jesus took him home when he was eight months

The author of this article wrote the editor the following letter when he sent his article:

Dear Pastor Jensen:

Last November my wife and I had the tragic experience of losing our little eight-months old boy. He was a good boy and not once did his mother have to leave the church with him during the sermon. He slept or was very content to sit and play.

One Sunday his mother did take him out though because he felt ill. We took him to the hospital where we thought he would have a chance to get well. The doctor said he was not seriously ill but suggested that we leave him there till his fever became normal. During the night of Nov. 13 he managed to roll over to one side of the mattress and slip between the frame and the movable upright. Hospital attendants heard no fussing nor movements from the nursery. They were shocked that the baby could have got himself into such a position and die there.

The inquest revealed that the bed and mattress were faulty. This has been remedied now and the cribs are safe, but we do not have our boy.

We missed him greatly but found wonderful comfort in God's Word. It opened itself to us in new and rich meaning.

Yours in Christ,
Ansgar Christensen.

At the time when our little Glen-nie was taken home to his Savior the thoughts arose in our minds, "Why was he taken? He was such a good little boy, and caused us so much joy." We loved him, yes, but Jesus loved him more. We all have

a sojourn on earth; for some it is long; for others it is short. The earthly life for Christians is not an easy one. Many trials and testings come along to try our faith. Had he lived, this boy would have experienced these things too because they are inevitable. He was spared them and lives now in glory where there is joy and singing. The natural physical reaction to the exhausting experience of sorrow is weakness and emptiness, because part of us has been removed. It has a humbling effect and should drive us to the One who gives strength.

Jesus speaks out clearly and calmly, "Take heart; it is I; come." We learn to lean on Him and our faith strengthens and grows as we yield to His infinite wisdom and love. We must stand fast in our faith and "lift our eyes unto the hills from whence cometh our help" (Ps. 121). For the Christian to ask God, "Why? Why?" is a faithless and sinful act that will drive us away from God rather than to Him. All humans feel the hurt in adversity and it is natural that they do. Jesus, who also dwelt among His people in the flesh, understands these tribulations well. Jesus, too, felt sorrow for departed ones; He was tempted and tried on the mountain. The devil will use adversity as a powerful weapon against the Christian. For protection we need the "breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation" (Eph. 6:16).
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News and Notes

The Report of the Joint Union Committee is now in the hands of the pastors. It was unanimously approved by the Church Council Feb. 15-16. The Council presents it to the annual convention at Audubon, Iowa, for adoption. The Council does not ask for any revision of the report.

Pastor N. Bentsen writes to us about a faithful member, Mrs. Margrete Ericksen of Webster Groves, Mo., who recently passed away. Pastor Bentsen served Webster Groves three times. The first time he baptized her, the second time he confirmed her, and the third he officiated at her wedding. She was a faithful church member and very hospitable.

Racine, Wis. Our Savior's Church. L. M. Andersen, pastor. The annual report of the congregation announces a membership of 1143 members, an increase of 64% during the past six years, and total receipts in 1953 of \$53,773, an increase of 109% during the past six years.

Shelby, Iowa. Stanley L. Carlsen, Pastor.

During the year 1953, the congregation laid plans for remodeling and enlarging the Church. A fund drive was started in September 1953. At a recent meeting, the building and finance committee stated they expect to start building this fall. Included in the project will be Sunday School rooms, choir transept, Church office, larger nave, new kitchen, some new church furniture and other needed improvements and additions.

The 1953 annual report shows 371 baptized members and 272 confirmed members. Our total income from all sources, not including organizations was \$11,853.77. At the annual meeting the congregation presented Pastor Carlsen a bonus of \$500.00.

At time of writing a religious census of the community including the town of Shelby and 86 square miles in the country, is almost completed. The three town churches are cooperating.

During 1954 our Family Fellowship meetings, which are held the first Sunday evening of every month, will be

presented and sponsored by one of the Church organizations.

Chicago, Ill. Miss Janet Justesen, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Christian Justesen of Fresno, California and Mr. Paul Brostrom, son of Rev. and Mrs. Carl Brostrom of Norwich, Conn., (Augustana Synod) were united in marriage at Golgotha church in Chicago on February 6th.

Pastor Justesen and Pastor Brostrom shared in performance of the double ring ceremony which was witnessed by many friends and relatives of the bridal party.

Eleven different states were represented by the guests—from the east to the west coast.

Both bride and groom had been students at Dana College.

Reception following the ceremony was held in the church parlors, after which guests were invited to the home of Edwin and Frances Jorgensen for a fellowship hour. Janet spent over seven years of her childhood in Chicago, during the time Pastor Justesen served at Golgotha. She has been employed as a teacher—most recently in the schools at Blair, Nebraska. Paul is stationed at Elizabethtown, Kentucky, where they will make their home temporarily.

The Camp Sierra Bible Camp sponsored each summer by the churches of the National Lutheran Council in the San Joaquin Valley, California, will be held June 19-26 this year.

Owatonna, Minn., Pastor Norlan Hansen. We here at Owatonna thank God for the past year. Truly a year of fruitful effort. We have grown throughout the year. Twelve persons received Holy Baptism: 9 children and 3 adults. Ten persons received instruction and were confirmed, 3 after adult instruction. Thirty-eight persons were received by letter of transfer.

We have about 100 children enrolled in our Sunday school, under the guidance of ten teachers.

Our stewardship program which we started over a year ago has brought us startling results, both in our church and in our Sunday school. We thank God for these wonderful happenings.

Many new things have been added in our church throughout the year. These include: a new pulpit, guest book stand, altar Bible, new carpeting, collection plates, and an altar was up in our Sunday school. All of which were donated, some in part and some altogether. We have four active organizations which have enjoyed a very profitable year. Our brotherhood which had been inactive the past three years is one which was reorganized this year.

It is through the ever tireless efforts of our pastor, Rev. Norlan Hansen that we have grown in all these things.

Eugene, Oregon. Bethesda Lutheran Church, Pastor Ingward Olsen. Sunday evening, February 21st, a reception was given in honor of new members (86) who had joined the church in 1953. The tables in the Parish Hall were very appropriately decorated for the occasion—with mature cherry trees, flags and white and blue candles. A program consisting of songs, musical number and talks, and a short skit, portraying the different church organizations like the Boy Scouts, Builder's Club, Luther League, etc., was put on, and this created lots of interest and fun. In closing Pastor Olsen gave a short talk, introducing the new members individually.

The Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hawk was celebrated February 2nd with a reception and program in the Parish Hall.

Bethesda is beginning to prepare for the Pacific District Convention to be held here during the days of late September and early October. This is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the District which was organized in Eugene in 1904.

The Ladies Aid has recently furnished the Ladies Lounge, adjacent to our new fireside room and Parish Hall with very comfortable and tasteful furniture, so when our convention guests come here, they also will have a place to relax and rest between meetings.

A baby grand piano has recently been given for our parish hall. The giver of this very generous gift prefers to remain anonymous, but we

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THE ANSGAR LUTHERAN. Official Organ of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, published weekly by Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr.

Otto H. Stave, Business Manager. Subscription price: United States and Canada, \$3.00 per year in advance; foreign countries, \$4.00. All communications that concern the Editorial Department, news items and books to be reviewed should be sent to the editor at Spencer, Iowa. Everything pertaining to the Youth Department should be sent to Rev. Homer Larsen, 904 Bluff St., Cedar Falls, Iowa. A special club rate of \$2.00 per year is offered Bible classes and organizations of the church when ten or more copies are sent to one address, and \$2.00 a year for dress, advertisements and all communications pertaining to the Business Department should be sent to the Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr. When CHANGE OF ADDRESS is desired give old as well as new address. Entered as second-class matter, December 14, 1927, at Post Office at Blair, Nebr., under Act of March 3, 1879.

Much of our news is received from Religious News Service, and the News Bureau of the National Lutheran Council.

REV. JOHN M. JENSEN, Editor
321 E. 8th Street
Spencer, Iowa

torials and Comments

Our Home Missions

annual home mission board meeting was held in ry. We were there for a short time. A very com-
 -ve report by Pastor K. M. Matthiesen, executive
 y, reviewed the work of the past year. We can
 py for the work. The California congregations
 course growing by leaps and bounds. But the
 elds also showed much progress except in very
 es. Many of the fields are rapidly working to
 elfsupport. It is gratifying that Toronto will be
 orting May 1st, 1954.

Matthiesen gave a summary of the work be-
 e detailed report. We quote from this summary:

WTH. During 1953-54 North Hollywood will at-
 self-support, that is, the congregation will meet
 enses with the exception of the amortization on
 onage. St. Ansgar Congregation in Toronto will
 complete self-support by assuming all the finan-
 -gations. Trinity of Norwalk, California, will take
 e amortization of the parsonage in addition to
 l expenditures. Nearly all our Home Mission
 ations are taking on larger financial loads thus
 funds available for new work.

th is also noticed as expressed in additional
 g projects. Faith Lutheran of Castro Valley has
 their "Youth Building." Trinity of Norwalk
 ed another Sunday school unit. Valley Lutheran
 h Hollywood is in the midst of preparations for
 lding of their church. St. Mark's of Hoffman
 has completed their first unit. Immanuel Lu-
 of Orum, Nebraska, have successfully completed
 rgement of their facilities, St. Mark's of Storm
 owa, have nearly completed their first unit. St.
 s of Montreal have enlarged their building great-
 easing the usefulness of their church.

th is also indicated by members. There have
 dded 695 confirmed members and 1107 baptized
 rs during 1953. The Sunday school enrollment
 n increased by 1117. It is also a sign of spiritual
 when stewardship of money is being developed.
 the year our mission congregations have given
 volent causes \$18,548.61 of which \$14,187.16 was
 our synodical treasury. The local current in-
 ounted to \$104,788.00. Income for Building
 nd Major Improvements amounted to \$162,802.60
 ag loans made. In addition to the current income
 18 have been paid off in interest and indebted-
 his includes amortization paid by the Board.)
 g these figures gives us the following:

al current income	\$104,788.00
lding fund & major improvements	168,802.60
ot reduction plus interest.....	30,813.18
nevolences	18,548.61

Total \$316,952.39

Total assets of congregations	\$989,998
Total indebtedness	375,394
Net worth	614,604

But growth cannot be adequately measured by figures
 —they are just an indication. What actually is being ac-
 -plished through Home Missions can only be surmised
 when one takes into consideration the sacrificial and de-
 -voted labor by the members who give of their time and
 talent to teach 3,338 children in Sunday schools, who
 willingly give of their free time to help in the construc-
 -tion of the new buildings, who spend themselves in the
 many and varied tasks necessary to actuate the entire
 program of the church in the community.

NEW FIELDS. Beginning May 1st we will receive
 two new fields as a result of the adoption of the Re-
 -organization by last year's convention, namely Storm
 Lake, and Underwood, Iowa. St. Mark's of Storm Lake
 is a new field started by the Iowa District in 1953. The
 potentials of this field are just now beginning to be more
 fully realized due to the fact that the congregation has
 been worshiping in rented quarters. Now a beautiful
 first unit is nearing completion at the cost of about \$40,-
 000.00.

Pewaukee, Wisconsin, is being recommended to the
 Board of Home Missions by the Wisconsin District as a
 new Home Mission field. A limited work has been car-
 -ried on by Pastor Thorvald Hansen of Hartland and dur-
 -ing the summer by a student pastor. This has resulted
 in the formation of a congregation called Galilee Lu-
 -theran Church with a confirmed membership of 150 bap-
 -tized and 97 confirmed members.

PRESENT FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. Our pres-
 -ent commitments are as follows:

Red Deer, Alta. First unit and parsonage, preferably
 this year. A good church site has been secured. Present
 place of worship is an upstairs lodge hall very unattrac-
 -tive. See pastor's report. This congregation will need a
 loan of \$30,000.00 from Church Extension for first unit.

Pass Lake, Ontario. Parsonage. The congregation is
 furnishing all lumber and free labor for much of the
 building. The Minnesota District voted to give \$1,000.00
 toward this project. Parsonage is figured at \$8,000.00.
 They will need a loan of \$4,000.00 from Endowment
 Funds. We must ask the church council for this loan.

Storm Lake, Iowa. Parsonage. The pastor is paying
 \$1,000.00 a year house rent. Building lot is owned by
 the congregation. Pastor Schattauer estimates cost of
 house to be about \$16,000.00.

Pewaukee, Wisconsin. Parsonage. This new field will
 require both parsonage and first unit but the building
 of the first unit can possibly wait until next year. The

(Continued on page 15)

A Remodeled Home

By Oscar Johnson

"And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down for today I must abide at thy house."

Luke 19:

Our text this morning is the story of a man whose home was remodeled. Zacchaeus was a rich man and very likely regarded as a good citizen. He was a shrewd business man, and had a lucrative job as all tax collectors for the Roman Government had. We can be sure that he had a beautiful home, elaborately furnished and at least from outward appearances, was one of the finest in the neighborhood. However, his home was unhappy, for within its walls there was little love and honesty.

This home of Zacchaeus was remodeled and changed by the presence of Jesus. Instead of a home of selfishness it became a home of love—"a half of my goods I give to the poor." Instead of a home of dishonesty it became a home of fair play—"if I have wrongfully exacted ought of any man I restore fourfold." Instead of a home of spiritual poverty it became a home of spiritual wealth—"today is salvation come to this house." All of this was accomplished by the presence of the Master.

THERE IS A REAL NEED FOR SUCH A REMODELING OF OUR HOMES. We remodel our "houses," but too often neglect our "homes." We cover the walls with new paint to gain new beauty. We remodel and extend rooms for greater comfort, but the life of the home often remains drab and void of beauty. The thought of "home" has lost the tug on the heart. Edgar Guest, in his well-known poem, says, "it takes a heap o' livin' in a house to make it home." Homes in America have generally lost this "heap o' livin'." We install large picture windows to gaze with longing at the outside. Families are generally scattered and disunited. If we are not tired, if we have transportation, a place to go and a baby sitter, we are not home.

There is, I believe, a deep longing within many a heart for home to be different. There is a wish that home might really be something. That which is needed is the presence of Christ to remodel and remake our homes. I believe with all my heart that He alone can do a satisfactory job.

We raise the question: "What will Christ do if He is invited to remodel my home?"

HIS PRESENCE WILL FILL YOUR HOME WITH LOVE. That which is generally lacking in our homes today is a genuine love and concern for one another.

Self-interest has taken the place of this love and concern. Each one seeks his own satisfaction. Faded are the visions of courtship days when we longed for satisfaction of serving and satisfying the other. Children are left to find interests and activities of their own, given money to buy them. Many a child is unconscious of a parent's genuine love. We have become strangers to one another.

What is the solution? Some have said that television would solve the problem, for then we would all see home and in silence there would be harmony. One might say that a greater understanding of psychology is the answer. There are many helps and aids, but nothing is needful." It is the presence of Christ that is needed, for His presence erases self interest and fills with love and a genuine concern for one another. Christ remodels our homes we become "tenderly

tioned one to another; in honor preferring one another." **IF THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST IS SOUGHT IN YOUR HOME HE WILL GIVE YOU A UNITED PURPOSE.** Our homes are characterized by many varied interests. There has never been a day of so many organizations and clubs. Many of them are fine and noble in their purpose, but they have divided and entered our families. The church is no longer the center of family interest, but has become extra-curricular. The church is no longer the center of ties of friendship. Too often we are strangers to one another. The church no longer serves the family unit but only fractions of the unit.

It is serious!! Serious enough that we may neglect and drop and cancel some of our many appointments. Serious enough that we should seek to find an interest that will give us a united purpose as a family. The answer again is the presence of Christ and His church must restore the family pew, the family altar. We must clasp the hands of one another in our family in service and worship. The church and its mission is worthy and capable of binding together the family which is so often being torn apart today.

Our homes need remodeling and only Christ can do a satisfactory job. Seek His presence today, for "I must abide at thy house." How may I engage Him in this great task? **IT IS SIMPLE. JUST ASK HIM**

THY KINGDOM COME

SKETCHES FROM A SUMMER IN COLOMBIA

By F. W. Thomsen

VIII. Rio Negra

Rio Negra, or Black River, built on the slopes of the Andes, is a unique town where the means of livelihood is shoemaking and tailoring. As we strolled along the

narrow streets, we heard from the houses the tapping of the cobblers' hammers.

Two brave Christian nurses are in full charge of the hospital.

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NEWS AND NOTES

(Continued from page 2)

like to take this opportunity express our heartfelt apprecia-

Junior Choir has again been or-
under the able director, Mrs.
Wilde. Joanne Petersen is the
anist. They sang for the first
in "Youth Sunday"—February
The Luther Leaguers took part
service and Mr. James Kalles,
an Student Counsellor at the
city of Oregon, was the speak-

old friend Mr. Jens Brodersen,
has been living at the "Sunset
for several years, had the mis-
recently to fall and break his
e is now in a convalescent home
very weak, and our prayers are
n, that God will soon grant him

L. C. Miller passed away last
th just a couple of weeks before
his wife were to have celebrat-
for 60th wedding anniversary.
as he was commonly known,
rn in Slesvig, Denmark, May 3,
He came to U. S. with his par-
the age of 8, and they located
tland, Maine, where they at-
the Norwegian Lutheran Church
the church in Falmouth was or-

Mrs. Emma Mikkelsen died August
13, 1953. Her husband Ole preceded
her in death several years ago.

"Grandpa" Petersen (P. H.) was
called home on October 16th, a month
and two days after celebrating his 91st
birthday. "Grandpa," as he was affec-
tionately known by us all, was a
staunch Christian character, and even
when he was 80 he never seemed like
an old man, but would help in his
home and the neighborhood with what-
ever was needed. He was president
of the congregation at Ruskin, Ne-
braska, for many years, and many are
the newcomers who found refuge in
the Petersen's hospitable home. Since
coming to Eugene, he had made his
home with his daughter, Tilda (Mrs.
Carl R. Petersen) and her family; and
in this home he found loving care in
his last illness.

Never would he accept the offer of
a ride home, when we thought he was
looking too tired; "No, thanks; I should
say NOT, I am out for a walk, and I
am going to walk home!" Grandpa
had a true Christian humility, "a sin-
ner—saved by grace—and nothing to
boast of in himself" and this was what
made him so beloved to us all.

Pastor Lloyd Neve, our missionary
to Japan, will return to America this
summer on his first furlough and will
arrive in time to attend our annual

convention in Audubon. He will be
available as speaker in a limited num-
ber of Bible camps. Such invitations
should be sent as soon as possible to
the chairman of the Japan Mission
Committee, Pastor Paul C. Nyholm,
Blair, Nebr.

BOOK REVIEW

SERMONS I LOVE TO PREACH

By Edgar De Witt Jones, published
by Harper & Brothers, 191 pages; price
\$2.50.

Between the covers of this book are
fifteen favorite sermons by the well-
known Detroit pastor. The sermons
have fascinating titles such as "The
Matterhorn of Holy Scriptures," "Jew-
els from King Solomon's Mines," "On
Losing and Finding God," etc. The dif-
ficulty is that one doubts a person
could find God in that or in any of
the other sermons in the book. One
can hardly conceive that such ser-
mons could have been delivered in a
Lutheran pulpit. They are thoughtful
and imaginative; but not characterized
by deep thought. The messages are
eloquent and cultured. They remind
one of the style of Dr. Joseph Fort
Newton. How different these sermons
are from those of Dr. John Henry Jowett.
The eloquence is at its best in the
sermon on Lincoln. The sermon on the
Reformation seems to this writer one
of the best.

—K. R. Jensen.

THY KINGDOM COME

(Continued from page 4)

Hist Mission in Rio Negra. They visit the sick,
the babies, and care for souls. Not long ago they
attacked during a meeting. A mob broke into the
and began to wreck the furniture. The mob was
g for a man whose brother was a strong Catholic.
ger was flashed in the melee, but no one was hurt.
an being sought had been hidden in the room of
the nurses and was not discovered. The authori-
signed friendliness toward the mission, but the af-
as officially recorded as an abusive attack on the
nt "visitors." Downtown the following day, as she
her jeep, one of the nurses met the man who had
d the dagger. He glared at her; she deliberately
H toward him; he retreated to the other side of his

le in the town we visited two homes where shoes
being made. The charming householders were
of their wares, and well they might be. Down by
verside the women were washing clothes by rub-
them on a rock and rinsing them in the river. The
n Rio Negra ended back at the Methodist Mission
where we had coffee, cookies, and home made
brittle.

evening, back home in Medellin, we saw slides
the Morck collection. As we viewed the slides,

there were frequent comments of this kind: "This is the
plains town of La Aquada, which is wiped out. . . . Here
at Santa Anna the chapel was burned. . . . Here at Parpa
the mission residence and chapel were destroyed." So
many entertain the hope that Rojas Pinilla, the new
president, will help to relieve the tensions that have re-
sulted in such wanton destruction.

* * *

And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto
them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the
hands of men: And they shall kill him, and on the
third day he shall be raised again.

The shadow of the cross was already being cast across
the path of Jesus. Knowing that persecution would
come did not prevent Him from taking the way of sor-
row that would lead beyond death to life again. He did
not go out of His way to hasten death, in fact he avoid-
ed conflict where integrity was not involved.

While in Colombia, I sensed more keenly what it
meant to entertain thoughts of stoning, of daggers threat-
ening, of mobs and fists stirring into frenzy, ready to
tear a victim to pieces. God's love is the guiding light;
force is of no avail. Faith and trust day by day is the
answer.

In relating her story of mob violence, the Methodist
nurse at Rio Negra said, "I was not afraid." We too need
not be afraid if we have a living faith.

CHURCH NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

"Devil a City Slicker?"

Not So, Says NLC Workshop

Hettinger, N.D.—Too often the farmer subscribes to the myth that "the devil is a city slicker," that the bright lights of the city are a necessary setting for sin and that the wide-open spaces have almost a sacramental value.

This was one of the spiritual "blind spots" cited by those attending a Lutheran Upper Great Plain Workshop here, February 24 to 26. The workshop was sponsored by the Rural Church Program of the National Lutheran Council.

More than 100 Lutheran pastors and laymen attended from six states. Farmers, professional men, soil experts, businessmen, and pastors gathered in informal discussion groups to pool ideas for a strengthened Lutheran ministry in the sparsely-settled plains.

Other "blind spots" in a farmer's spirituality were also noted in the workshop discussions. For example, he may consider hatred and resentment as a virtue so long as they are "loyal" to agriculture. He might give his approval to a farmer's owning 20 sections of land and at the same time condemn the "big monopolists" in the city.

A tone of optimism pervaded the conference as it considered such problems of the Great Plains as: the difficulty of the church in reaching isolated farm families, of holding a family together in a mechanized age, and of attracting first-rate pastors to churches in the Great Plains.

There was great emphasis on the importance of the pastor's understanding the area, adapting himself to the cultural pattern, and identifying himself with the people of the Plains.

International Meeting

Dates in 1954

April 26 to May 1 at Hildesheim, Germany—Lutheran World Federation's Commission on Theology and Commission on Liturgy.

July 14-16 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil—Spanish Lutheran Literature Conference.

July 20-23 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil—Second Latin American Lutheran Conference.

August 3-5 in the United States (exact place to be announced later)—

LWF's Commission on World Service.

August 6-7 at New York—Meeting of members of LWF's Executive Committee who will be in America for Second Assembly of World Council of Churches.

August 13-14 at Maywood, Ill.—Pre-Evanston Lutheran Conference at Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary.

August 15-31 at Evanston, Ill.—Second Assembly of World Council of Churches.

August 20 at Evanston, Ill.—Reception for Lutheran participants in World Council Assembly.

August 24 at Evanston, Ill.—Lutheran Communion Service, sponsored by Augustana Lutheran Church, for delegates and visitors to World Council Assembly.

Oct. 11-15 in Northern Germany or Scandinavia (exact place to be announced later)—LWF's Commission on Stewardship and Congregational Life.

Oct. 22-29 at Hoekelum, Holland—LWF's Commission on World Missions.

Special note: A series of theological conferences will be held in various parts of the United States during the summer, featuring Lutheran leaders from foreign countries who will be here for the World Council Assembly. Time and place of these conferences will be announced later.

Important Lutheran Dates in 1954

All eight church bodies participating in the National Lutheran Council will hold conventions this year. Their 1954 meetings are scheduled as follows:

June 9-13 at Thief River Falls, Minn.—58th annual conference of Lutheran Free Church (64,000 members).

June 9-15 at Minneapolis, Minn.—21st general convention (biennial) of Evangelical Lutheran Church (907,000 members).

June 14-20 at Los Angeles, Calif.—95th annual synod of Augustana Lutheran Church (485,000 members).

June 15-20 at Audubon, Iowa—58th annual convention of United Evangelical Lutheran Church (52,000 members).

June 20-23 at Waukegan, Ill.—65th annual convention of Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church or Suomi Synod (31,000 members).

August 10-15 at Cedar Falls, Iowa—77th annual convention of American Evangelical Lutheran Church (20,000 members).

Sept. 30 to Oct. 6 at Beatrice—13th biennial convention of Canadian Lutheran Church (791,000 members).

Oct. 7-14 at Toronto, Canada—biennial convention of United I an Church in America (2,088,000 members).

Note: Presidents whose term expire are Dr. T. O. Burntvedt, Lutheran Free Church, Dr. J. Aagaard of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dr. John Wargelin of the I omi Synod, Dr. Alfred Jensen, American Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, United Lutheran Church. Drs. Aagaard and Wargelin have announced that they do not wish to be candidates for re-election.

"Martin Luther" Nominated For Two "Oscar" Awards

Hollywood—The dramatic film "Martin Luther" has been nominated for two of film's coveted "Oscars" for outstanding achievement in the past year's film productions.

The Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences, which makes the announcements here that "Martin Luther" will compete with other top films of 1953 in the "best black-and-white cinematography" and the "best black-and-white art direction" categories.

In the "best black-and-white cinematography" category, "Martin Luther" will compete for the prize "From Here to Eternity," "Roman Holiday," "Julius Caesar" and "The Letter." The poster.

Letter by Luther Sold At Auction for \$500

New York—A letter written by Martin Luther on December 12, 1538, sold at auction at the Parke-Bernet Galleries here.

A private collector, whose name was not divulged by the auctioneers, acquired the letter for \$500 at the auction, which took place on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

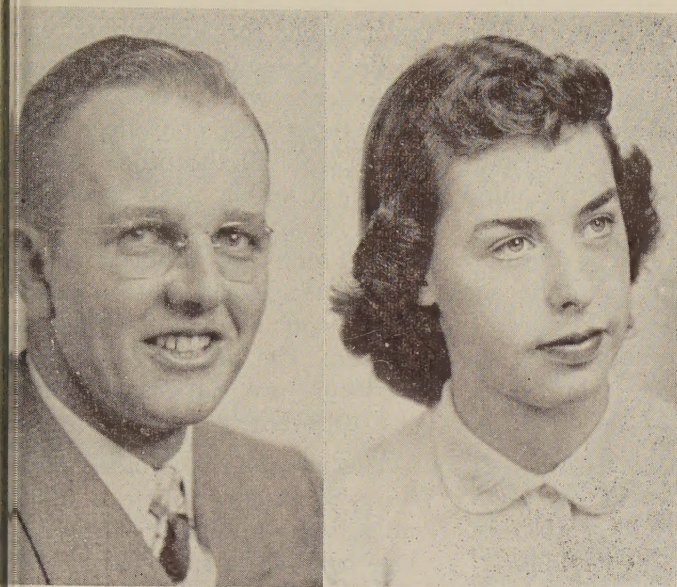
The letter, in Luther's handwriting, was addressed to Nikolai Spect, schoolmaster at Boelzen, Germany. In the letter, the Reformer said he was sending a portrait of "the holy man John Hus" to his friend as "a token of remembrance," adding that the gift should be valued for its spiritual rather than for its material value.

Our Foreign Mission Fields

Edited by Rev. K. R. Jensen, Viborg, South, Dakota

Our New Missionaries To Santal, India

By Henry N. Hansen



Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jorgensen

We are happy to present to you our new missionaries for field in Santal, India, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd W. Jorgensen, 2258 Scudder Ave., St. Paul, Minn. They were married in Golgotha Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill., on September 19, 1953.

Floyd W. Jorgensen was born June 1, 1926, at Luck, Wisconsin. He was the fifth son of a family of five boys, in to Barbro and Jens Jorgensen. He was baptized at St. Peter's Church, North Luck, and it was in the same church that he made his confirmation vows on May 26, 1940, while Pastor J. M. Girtz served the congregation.

His first call to foreign missions came during the years of Pastor Girtz's ministry, but it was not until later when Pastor F. O. Lund served the congregation that Floyd became fully convinced that the Lord had called him to serve as a foreign missionary.

Mr. Jorgensen's formal training included four years

at Dana College, Blair, Nebraska, where he received his B.A. degree May 24, 1953. At Dana the way was opened for him to prepare himself as an Agricultural missionary. At the present time he is studying at the University of Minnesota, as a special student. He is working for his Master's degree in Agronomy, Animal Husbandry and related courses. He is concentrating on such courses for his Master's degree as to be best fitted as an agricultural missionary in India. He is eagerly looking forward to this fall when he together with his wife expects to be commissioned as an Agricultural Missionary to Santal India.

Mrs. Dorothy Jorgensen was born October 17, 1934, in Chicago, Illinois, the first child of Gertrude and Marius Landbo. She was baptized and confirmed in Golgotha Lutheran Church, Chicago.

It was while she was attending the confirmation class that she came to a realization of her need of Jesus Christ as her Savior, soon after she came to full assurance of peace with God.

Mrs. Jorgensen has been active in the Church Choir, Luther League, attended Bible Camps and also the Leadership Training School. She had the regular amount of schooling through High School and has completed a year and a half of college work. While she was attending Dana College the idea of becoming a missionary became very real to her when she met Floyd who was preparing some day to go out as a missionary. She is convinced that the Lord has led her and helped her in making this important decision.

Dorothy has always wanted to work with people. She has held jobs in offices, in a grocery store, and this last summer in a hospital, as a nurse's aid. She attended Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minn., the first Semester of 1953-54. They are now living at 2258 Scudder Ave., St. Paul, Minn. They are both looking forward to the time when they can go out to the foreign mission field in India to serve their Lord and Master.

CONFERENCE IMPRESSIONS

By Cornelia Jensen, Colombia

"Thou hast put gladness in my heart. More than they have when their grain and their new wine are increased." Psalm 4:7.

In our hearts there was gladness as we gathered for the Mission Conference in Bogota, January 11-19, 1954. Gladness as we reviewed what God had done during the past year, and also, as we considered the possibility of continuing work in some areas, where due to the persecution it had been discontinued for the last four or five years.

For me it was a privilege to be present. I hadn't realized that the Conference had so many varied problems and questions to consider—each one important because of the bearing it might have on the salvation of precious souls. One sensed how prayerfully the guidance of God's Spirit was sought in every decision. When it came to the placement of workers, both national and foreign, the Conference president, Pastor A. C. Morck, said: "Let us not think of personalities but of the work."

(Continued on page 15)

No. 3 in a series of articles that take a look at
"The Shadow of the Church to Come" . . . by George S. Schultz

BOOKS UNDER THE ARM of the Church to Come

As the shadow of the proposed new church body comes more and more into view, it is apparent even in outline form that something is being carried under the arms. Closer inspection shows the objects to be books.

Lots of them. If only this weren't just a shadow, we could read the titles. But we can make a pretty good guess: books on Exegesis, Eschatology, Hermeneutics, Dogmatics, Homiletics; and under the other arm books on just plain math, English, and science.

All of which indicates, and correctly so, that when the representatives of the ELC, UELC, LFC, and ALC got together to design a blueprint for a merged Church they gave more than passing attention to educational matters. In fact, it was in this area that some of the most difficult "negotiation" was encountered.

The blueprint makes plain (and the discussions that led up to it made it even more plain) that the new church is very concerned about its colleges and its seminaries. The new Church will expect much of them—and will be willing to give them much.

The Seminary (ies)

Of special interest should be the training of the future ministers. Were merger to come now, and all bodies to bring their present seminaries into the new Church, the ELC would contribute one in St. Paul, Minn. (enrollment 380), and one in Saskatoon, Sask., Canada (37); the UELC one in Blair, Nebr. (28); the LFC one in Minneapolis, Minn. (39); and the ALC two church-owned, one in Columbus, Ohio (196) and the other in Dubuque, Iowa (175) and one operated in cooperation with the United Lutheran Church (not the ELC seminary mentioned above) in Saskatoon, Sask., Canada (9 ALC students).

That the UELC and the LFC each

has but one seminary is to be expected since both church bodies are quite small (see Article 1 in this series). That there is but one seminary in the ELC in the United States is a matter of choice. The representatives of this Church believe that having a single seminary in which all their pastors have been trained has been a major contributing factor to the oneness of mind and spirit of their Church. This group would prefer that in the new Church there would be only one seminary, a large one, to be sure.

But the ALC representatives see some value in having several seminaries wisely located geographically. They are not willing that either Capital or Wartburg seminary shall cease to be a theological school. Nor are the smaller bodies ready to concede that their seminaries shall cease to exist and to render their peculiar and distinct service to the training of the new clergy. So it appears that there could be at least five places in the United States alone where the clergy of the new church would be trained.

To Be but One Seminary Board

Yet the blueprint calls for "the concept of one seminary" functioning on "a number of campuses." The oneness is to be achieved by having one board of regents to oversee the work of all of them instead of each seminary having its own board of regents as 'now. This one seminary board will be related to the Church's Board of Higher Education just as are all other boards of regents, with the exception of the election of presidents and faculty members.

This procedure has considerable significance in the ALC, particularly as it would relate to Capital University. At present the college and the seminary at Columbus are one school (the university), operated by one board of regents, administered by one president (the seminary is headed by a dean), and in some re-

spects operated as a single financial unit. Under the new plan the college and the seminary at Capital will have different boards in control. One board of regents will be responsible for everything east of College Avenue and another board of regents will be responsible for everything west of College Avenue along with all the other seminaries of the Church. This geographical division is, of course, a crude way of defining the problem and is completely exact, but it gives an impression of what will have to happen. The problems it brings to focus are not insurmountable, just different.

This problem is avoided at Wartburg Seminary, which is about 100 miles removed from Wartburg College, and which now operates under its own board of regents and its own president.

Envisage Specialization at the University

"The concept of one seminary" "a number of campuses" will lay a heavier administrative burden on the respective presidents, for there will not be a board of regents which can handily be called upon; however, each unit can have its own executive committee appointed from the seminary board of regents. The end result is thought to be worth it: a greater unification in principle and in policy in theological education. Surprising possibilities may be involved in the permissive clause: "Each unit of the theological seminary may be assigned areas of specialization, as for instance, postgraduate work, missions, rural ministry, etc." To achieve all of the foregoing will call for the utmost exchange of ideas between the various units and wise integration of both the seminary board of regents and the Board of Higher Education.

The seminaries will be owned by the Church. This simple statement will assume considerable significance as you read on.

As to the Colleges

There will be no dearth of colleges in the new Church since all of the now operated by the four colleges individually could continue in the new Church (between the lines of the blueprint talks in December and this writing in January the ELC has merged its junior college at Clifton, Texas, with Texas Lutheran College at Seguin, Texas, which have been transferred its funds, equipment, and some of its students).

There are the senior colleges and junior colleges and the enrollments of the four bodies (omitting the institutes and academies):

Institution	1953 Enrollment
ELC	
Capital University	995
Wartburg College	642
Texas Lutheran College...	314
Wheaton College (J.C.)	268
ELC	
St. Olaf College	1,483
Wheaton College	835
Concordia College	1,107
Augustana College	649
Pacific Lutheran College ..	923
Dordt College (J.C.) ...	227
ELC	
Wheaton College	217
LFC	
Wartburg College	722

Total 8,382

Yet these colleges show a confusing picture in their relationship to the Church, a confusion that the blueprint perpetuates. All ALC colleges are now owned by the ALC. The ELC schools are owned by corporations whose membership is synonymous with the membership of the church body (example: St. Olaf) while some are owned by corporations whose memberships are synonymous with segments of the church body (example: Pacific Lutheran College). The LFC's college is owned by a self-perpetuating corporation related to the church body through the individuals who comprise the corporation. The LFC is not incorporated and owns nothing—though some of its boards are incorporated.

Only the latter case would be affected by the blueprint, which pro-

vides that the colleges "may" be owned by the church body or by corporations whose membership is synonymous with the church body or a segment thereof. That leaves the matter open. Capital University, for example, could be owned outright and fully by the Church, which would hold title to its properties, be its legal representative, elect its board of regents, and determine (through proper channels) its program. That is as the matter is now. Or Capital University could be owned by a separate corporation whose membership is composed of all the members of the Church, and whose voting representatives would be the same people who vote at the church convention. Obviously the meetings of this corporation would be held in connection with the church convention. But the corporation of Capital University, not the Church itself (yet the same individuals would be voting), would own the property, be the legal representative, elect the board of regents, and determine (through proper channels) its program. It is in this manner that St. Olaf College is owned.

Or Capital University could be owned by a separate corporation whose members would be the members of the Ohio District. Note that it is not the Ohio District that would be incorporated as a district, but the members of the district would incorporate to own the college. This corporation, which would have to meet in connection with the meeting of the Ohio District, would perform the functions mentioned above. This is the pattern by which Pacific Lutheran College is owned.

Still another possibility is that the members of the Ohio, Eastern, and Michigan Districts would form a corporation to own Capital University. It must again be emphasized that it would not be the districts that incorporate but the members of those districts. It is on this pattern that Concordia College is owned. This pattern has its particular problem in that there would never be a time when all the voters of these districts, either themselves or as representatives of all congrega-

tions, would meet. The ELC does not face this problem in connection with Concordia College since at its church conventions every pastor may be present, and each congregation may send its representative.

Who Shall Decide the Matter?

How, when, and by whom is it to be decided which of these forms will be followed by Capital, Wartburg, and Luther? The blueprint doesn't say, nor can we. That is left up to each church body to decide.

If the colleges are owned by separate corporations rather than by the Church itself, does the Church have control of them and their property? Some safeguards on the property and the finances are written into the blueprint. For instance, the blueprint limits the separate corporations on the point of indebtedness, requiring the approval of the Board of Trustees of the Church before a program can be undertaken that requires the borrowing of funds or the granting of a partial or complete mortgage. Representatives of the ELC point to two other natural safeguards: the unlikelihood that a segment of the Church will violate the wishes of the whole Church, and the right of the Board of Higher Education to recommend drastic steps in the granting of Church subsidies if unwise financing appears.

Since most of the blueprint, as it relates to the colleges, is devoted to the physical management of the institutions, it is apparent that all of the bodies have confidence that their colleges and their college administrators will continue their respective programs on a high academic plane and with a strong Christian tone. When adjustments have been completed, the new Church would have a system of strong schools to meet the flood of students expected after 1960. It would be unwise and perhaps unfair to attempt a comparison of the effectiveness of the known ALC church-college relationship and that now proposed but not experienced. So we shall remain in the role of reporter, confident that thus saith the blueprint.

—Lutheran Standard.

For the Pleasure of Singing

By Ella Andersen

There is a saying in Danish, "Sing yourself happy."

You have heard the story of the colored man who sang at his work. One day a gentleman said to him, "Rastus, you must be happy. You sing so much." "Well, yes, Mr. Jones," he said, "I sing 'cause I'se tryin' to **get** happy."

Rastus was probably singing "Deep River" or "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" or "Sweet Bye and Bye." I like to think so.

Neither Rastus nor we can carry a song book around with us at our work. But are we not fortunate if we have several gems of song stored away in our memories? What a wealth of inspiration there is in many of the "Old Favorites." Have you sung this one through recently?

Mid pleasures and palaces
Though we may roam,
Be it ever so humble
There's no place like home.

or
Just before the battle, Mother,
I am thinking most of you—

or
My country 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing—
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills—

I think if I ever take an ocean voyage, I would like to join the group before we go to rest at night, and sing both verses of

Rocked in cradle of the deep,
In peace I lay me down to sleep,

Secure I rest upon the wave
For Thou, O Lord, hath power to save.

Next to the prayers and a good sermon at our Sunday services, is not the most important part of our morning worship the singing of the Hymns of the Church? Many of these hymns are prayers. How many can you or I sing without keeping our eyes on the book?

Some years ago it was customary that when we had guests in our homes, or when friends met in our homes an evening or a Sunday afternoon, we would visit and discuss matters of common interest. Then, as naturally and willingly as we gathered around the coffee table, we would also gather at the piano or parlor organ and **sing**. Perhaps there would be one or two extra hymn books on hand.

There was the hymn my father spoke of as one of his favorites:

Beneath the Cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand.

And my mother's favorite:

Jesus, Lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly.

There would be others selected:

Am I a soldier of the cross
A follower of the Lamb?

Jesus, priceless treasure,
Source of purest pleasure.

He leadeth me, O blessed thought.
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!

And that beautiful Easter hymn:

I know that my Redeemer liveth
What comfort this sweet sentence gives,
He lives to comfort me when faint
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

Beautiful Saviour, King of Creation.

Saviour, breathe an evening blessing
Ere repose our spirits seal—

Angel guards from Thee surround us,
We are safe if Thou art nigh.

And that majestic prayer-hymn:
O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home.

After the last hymn was sung, and the day had come to a close, and was time to say our good-byes, we feel tired and tense, or bored? If we had had an **uplift**, and we were better prepared to meet the stress and strain of the days to come.

Truly, there is health and power in our Christian hymns. Let us make good use of them.

The Johnsons are having the Nelsons and the Lunds over this evening. They asked us to bring a hymn book. Maybe we'll have another **Sing** tonight. I hope so!



LET US LOOK AT OUR SYNODICAL BUDGET

Special attention is called to four of our budgets: the SCHOOL FUND, HOME MISSION FUND, GENERAL FUND, and PENSION FUND, which are considerable short in being met while the rest of our funds are oversubscribed as indicated by the figures below which are of March 4. **We earnestly invite you to give all your attention to the above-named budgets.** There are still eight weeks left until May 1st, the end of our fiscal year. We have raised 74.67 per cent of our total budget, an exceptionally fine response so far this year. We are confident you will again go over the top. What an exalted privilege and rich blessing it is to have a part in God's wonderful program. For such giving goes forth to accomplish the greatest and best for man.

Name of Fund	Adopted Budget	Amount Raised	Percentage
General Fund	\$ 24,747.00	\$ 16,097.17	65.0
School Fund	80,000.00	54,157.84	67.8
Home Mission	36,643.00	26,257.69	71.6
Pension Fund	31,385.00	23,279.47	74.1
Indian Mission	7,650.00	8,153.13	106.2
Children's Homes ...	15,600.00	17,804.62	114.1
Utah Mission	1,542.00	1,792.99	116.3
Total	\$197,567.00	\$147,542.91	74.6

Yours in the Lord's service,
Hans C. Jersild

BY THE FIRESIDE

THE TIME IS SHORT

The time is short

*If thou wouldst work for God, it must be now;
If thou wouldst win the garland for thy brow,
Redeem the time.*

With his reward

*He comes, he tarries not; his day is near;
When men least look for him, will he be here;
Prepare for him!*

—H. Bonar.

THE GREAT LIGHT

A noted orator asked Charles Dickens for the most pathetic story in literature, and he said it was that of the prodigal son.

Thomas Jefferson was asked for the richest passage in literature, and he said it was the first sixteen verses of the fifth chapter of Matthew.

When Daniel Webster was questioned as to what he considered the greatest legal digest, his reply was the Sermon on the Mount.

No one has equaled David for poetry, nor Isaiah for vision, nor Jesus for his moral and ethical teachings, nor Peter for holy zeal, nor Paul for logic, nor John's statement of sanctified love.

God's Word is the greatest of all books, and its Author the greatest of all teachers. We do well to stay close to its pages. It is The Book.—**Square and Compass, Colorado.**

THE BURIED MOUNTAIN

The largest mountain range in the world is buried under the ocean. It is greater than the Andes or the Himalayas, despite the enormous size of these mountain ranges.

This great mountain range is under the Atlantic Ocean and extends from Iceland to the borders of Antarctica. Some peaks of this great mountain range are nearly 4 miles high, and in a few places these peaks rise above the ocean's surface. Examples of such places are the Azores, Ascension, Cape Verde Islands, and St. Helena.

This enormous mountain range is 10 times as long as the great Himalayas. The Mid-Atlantic Rise is the name applied to this mountain range by geographers. Some think this underwater mountain range is connected with the lost continent of Atlantis.—**The Friend.**

MISSION

Writing in **The Bible in the World**, the official magazine of The British and Foreign Bible Society, E. Gordon Rupp shares his thoughts from an airplane trip over Africa. He says:

A few months ago I went in a Comet over the Victoria Falls and, looking down at that majestic mass of water, remembered how Livingstone described it when a hundred years ago he was the first European to write of it. And then I remembered an incident that that great pioneer and apostolic man recorded almost immediately after this, how he came unawares upon the remains of a Christian Church, founded by the Jesuits long ago and all memory of it forgotten.

He found a broken Church bell in the long grass and the remains of a broken altar among the long weeds; and in a mood of dark despair he sat and wrote down the feeling that came to him—the awful missionary burden, so much to do and all of it so vulnerable, so soon overthrown—and he wrote almost bitterly:

"Why should I go on? It is worth while going on trying to open up Africa with its teeming millions to the Christian Gospel when tomorrow morning I too may be knocked on the head by ignorant savages?"

And then he took up the Bible—and he read the words: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" and "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." And he wrote: "I took this to be Jesus' Word of honor. And I went on."

The word of the Bible Society to the Churches is a word of inspiring reassurance. It is: "Good Christian men, rejoice!" for we are "very sure that God hath yet more truth and light to break from out His holy Word."

NO VACANCY

Henderson's evening suit was rather old-fashioned. His figure was not one which showed clothes to advantage either.

One evening, as he stood in the vestibule of a restaurant, waiting for his wife, a tall pompous man came up.

"I say, my man, are you the head waiter?" he drawled.

What Henderson lacked in bearing he made up for in quick thinking.

"No," he said, "but I heard him tell a young fellow today that he did not want to see any more applicants for jobs."—**Utica Observer Dispatch.**

"FOLLOW ME"

Beyond the sea is Galilee

And ways which Jesus trod,
And hidden there are those high hills

Where He communed with God;
Yet on the plains of common life,

Through all the world of men,
The voice that once said, "Follow me,"

Speaks to our hearts again.

—W. Russell Bowie.

THE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE

Rev. John C. Middlekauff, of Huntingdon, Pa., once told this incident from the life of Theodore Parker:

When Parker was 4 years old, he found a turtle on his father's farm. He had picked up a rock and was about to break its shell when a voice within said, "It is wrong."

He threw down the rock and went crying to his mother and asked her what told him it was wrong.

As she wiped away his tears, she said: "Some people call it conscience, but I prefer to call it the voice of God in the soul. If you listen and hear it, then it will speak clearer and clearer, and always guide you right; but if you turn a deaf ear to it, then it will fade out little by little, and leave you in the dark and without a guide. Your whole life depends on your heeding this inner voice."

Later Parker said: "No event in my life has made so deep and lasting an impression on me."

—**Chaplain Robert C. McMillan in The Chaplain.**

A Page For Youth...

Homer Larsen, Editor

"Living The Faith We Profess"

By Roland H. Hansen

Senior Seminarian

Luke 22:33-34, "And Peter said to Him, 'Lord I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.' Jesus replied, 'I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you three times deny that you know me.'"

In the Season of Lent, we as Christians seek to prepare ourselves to once again receive the message of our Saviour's last days on earth climaxed with His death upon the Cross and His Resurrection from the dead on Easter morn. We read and reread many familiar portions of Scripture which vividly describe and portray the work of Him who gave His all that you and I might inherit the gift of eternal life if we have faith.

A criticism which is commonly directed to the youth of our present generation is their lack of certainty regarding their own spiritual lives. The question is often asked: "How can you be a Christian and continue to associate with social functions that are anything but a credit and very frequently a detriment to your Christian character?" Yes, youth, can we answer the eternal whys that are often required of us by a firm testimony of faith, wherever we might be and in whatever we are doing?

DO WE REALLY KNOW OURSELVES?

Recall how Peter boldly told Jesus that he would be willing to go to prison with Him and to death itself before he would even deny Him **once**. What a stirring testimony of faith was professed by this great disciple! But, you and I know what happened later in the courtyard of the high priest, and Jesus told Peter what would actually happen when He said, "The cock will not crow three times until you deny that you know me."

Peter didn't know his own heart—but do we know ours? Perhaps we too are ardent followers of Jesus like Peter, but have we allowed the Holy Spirit to work within our hearts to will and to do that which is in accordance with the will of God? Many times a week or even a day, we pray, "thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," but is this an idle petition known by heart and prayed without meaning? Or recall the favorite song of Bible school pupils—"Come into my heart, come into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus; come in today, come in to stay . . ." We once sang it with much zeal and enthusiasm, but did we really mean it? We pledged ourselves at confirmation to remain faithful and

loyal to the holy Christian faith, but did we really mean it?

We are never too busy, too involved in achieving the temporal goals of life to consider this: do we really know ourselves in our spiritual lives?

DO WE ALWAYS PROFESS JESUS CHRIST?

In the courtyard, Peter was seated around a fire in the midst of Jesus' enemies who had earlier taken Him captive. In the course of time, he was asked on three different occasions, "Were you not a companion of the one called Jesus?" And three times Peter replied, "I did not know Him." Rather than share in the cost of Christian discipleship, Peter sought to escape the fate that awaited many who followed Jesus.

Put yourself in Peter's spot—what would you have done? Would you have replied, "I did not know Him," or "I know Him as my Lord and Saviour." Throughout the history of the Christian Church, many have professed their Christian faith regardless of what fate their enemies had in store for them. They died the martyr's death because they professed, "Yes, I know in whom I have believed—it is Jesus Christ my Lord."

Perhaps no single group in our American society has a greater opportunity to witness their Christian faith than our teen-agers. You have received confirmation instruction, but are you making it applicable to everyday life or just setting it in the corner to gather dust along with the rest of your past accomplishments?

Do you take Christ into your school-rooms; do you take Christ with you on your dates, in your social parties, or is He left at the door just as you leave your coat or outer wrap hanging on a hook? Do you ever do anything that jars your consecrated Christian conscience and later causes you anguish of heart just because you had to be doing what the rest of the gang was doing?

Either we are for Christ or we are against Him. If we are for Him, then it means that we are Christians 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. These are the two choices of life: what have you chosen—if it is Christ and the Christian way of life then profess it, confess it, and witness it before others by word and by deed.

Yes, my young Christian friends, by the help of God through our daily prayer and meditation on His Word, we must strive to live the faith we profess.

THE FAITHLESS "WHY?"

(Continued from page 1)

ation" (I Thess. 5:8).

On the dark day of Good Friday Jesus cried unto God, saying, "Why hast Thou forsaken me?" Jesus was the innocent Son of God who dwelt among us in the flesh. How He suffered in soul and body when He was rejected and cast away from His Father. Jesus paid the penalty for sin in our stead. Jesus found no comfort in God's Word because He was the Word and it was to be fulfilled through Him. "Believe in God; believe also in me." Jesus tells us to have faith in His resurrection, wherein is also our hope for life eternal.

It is evident to see that sin creates an unpleasant picture of the world. Stories of disease and death, immorality, greed, hate and fear are constantly in the news from all parts of the earth. I recently heard someone give an account of the conditions in an isolation hospital where patients are treated for the dreaded disease of poliomyelitis. There were dozens of iron lung patients in the wards and all were incapable of speech. The nurses were attracted to the needs of these patients by the clicking sounds given off by their tongues. The nervous strain on the nurses themselves was so great that they could only stay on duty for limited periods of time. Sometimes panic would grip the patients for fear that the machine would stop functioning. Nurses were hard to find because they thought they too might contract the disease. Relatives and friends would often walk into the halls weeping after visiting the patients.

Above these things Jesus tells us that life is more than earthly living; it is more than earthly success and failure. Life is more than earthly joys and sorrows. "I am come that they might have life, and . . . have it more abundantly. I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." The effects of sin are pain and heartaches in our physical world, but a life in Christ gives peace and security to the soul. The strength to bear life's problems is spiritual in nature. Je-

sus is the inexhaustible source of this strength. It will sustain us during life's difficult times. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it and are safe."

"He would soon be one year old." This statement reflects only our earthborn desire and craving for

that which might have been. It is better to accept that which is and stop asking futile "Whys?" To ask God "Why?" is to doubt, and doubt is faithless. God's ways are so inexplicable and infinite that it is awesome to ponder upon. "I know that my Redeemer lives, and because He lives, I too shall live."

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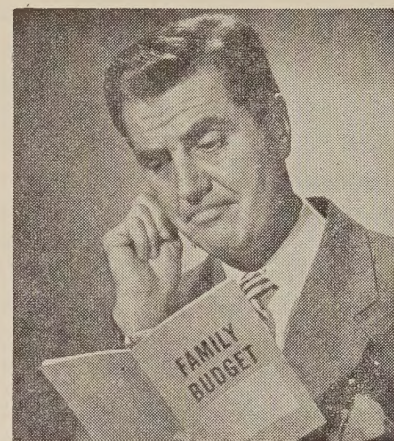
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

	Total Received	Chil- dren's Homes	School Fund	General Fund	Home Mission	Indian Mission	Utah Mission	Pen- sion Fund
Total Budget	197567.00	15600.00	80000.00	24747.00	36643.00	7650.00	1542.00	31885.00
Previously acknowledged	145216.81	17698.24	52947.70	15657.17	25830.94	8072.63	1782.99	23227.1
Sleepy Eye, Minn., Mrs. J. W. Simonsen in memory of her husband	30.00	30.00						
Easton, Calif., Immanuel Luth. Church	250.00			250.00				
Lynwood, Calif., St. Paul's Luth. Church	571.50		300.00	100.00	100.00	71.50		
Hutchinson, Minn., Miss Othilia Hauge	19.00				10.00	9.00		
Hutchinson, Minn., Main Street Luth. Church	200.00		150.00		50.00			
Moorhead, Minn., Mrs. Othilia Hauge and Ruth in memory of Pastor Pe- der Hauge	10.00						10.00	
Lincoln, Nebr., Our Savior's Luth. Church	300.00		200.00	25.00	75.00			
Bone Lake, Wis., St. Paul's Ladies Aid in memory of Arthur Marklund	3.00				3.00			
Camp Douglas, Wis., St. Stephen's Luth. S. S. in memory of Mrs. Peter Petersen	5.00	5.00						
Shennington, Wis., in memory of Mrs. Peter Petersen from the family of Mrs. Peter Petersen	10.00				10.00			
Kankakee, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Nels H. Bendiksen in memory of Mrs. Laure- ence Jaeger	2.00							2.
Kankakee, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Gale Jaeger in memory of Mrs. Laurence Jaeger	2.00	2.00						
Kankakee, Ill., Mr. and Mrs. Jens Mogensen	3.38	3.38						
Sleepy Eye, Minn., Trinity Luth. Church in memory of Mrs. L. P. Jensen	17.00	5.00			9.00			3.00
Oakland, Calif., Our Savior's Luth. Church	150.00		100.00		50.00			
Humboldt, Ia., Henry Erickson in memory of Miss Astra Erickson	50.00	50.00						
Humboldt, Ia., from friends and relatives in memory of Miss Astra Erick- son	59.50	11.00	14.50		14.00			20.00
Irene, S. D., in memory of Just Peterson of Turkey Valley Church*	18.00				9.00			9.00
Oshkosh, Wis., Our Savior's Luth. Church	281.75		200.00	40.00	41.75			
Audubon, Ia., Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hansen of Ebenezer Church in memory of Peter Hansen	5.00				5.00			
Owatonna, Minn., Our Savior's Luth. Church	126.33		126.33					
Minneapolis, Minn., Luth. Bible Institute for Pastor A. R. Petersen	8.33							8.33
Luck, Wis., Mr. and Mrs. Soren Morton and Mr. and Mrs. John C. Peter- sen in memory of Mrs. James Petersen	3.00		3.00					
Luck, Wis., in memory of Mrs. James Petersen: from friends \$7, from Willing Workers \$2	9.00				9.00			
Fresno, Calif., Grace Luth. Church	16.31		16.31					
Cedar Falls, Ia., Mrs. L. C. Hansen in memory of Mrs. Fred Theusen	1.00				1.00			
Cedar Falls, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Church	175.00		100.00	25.00	40.00			10.00
Hartland, Wis., Our Savior's Luth. Church	100.00		50.00	25.00	25.00			
Racine, Wis., Emmaus Luth. Church	1216.90		600.00	216.90	200.00			200.00
Rapid City, S. D., Mrs. L. P. Jensen and Mrs. B. F. Jensen and Paul in memory of Francis A. Smith	1.00				1.00			
Neenah, Wis., Our Savior's W. M. S.	10.00				10.00			
Washington Island, Wis., Trinity Luth. S. S., a mission offering	10.60				10.60			
TOTAL	148881.41	17804.62	54807.84	16339.07	26504.29	8153.13	1792.99	23479.47

* Irene, S. D., in memory of Just Peterson: Mr. and Mrs. Chris Long and Mrs. and Mrs. Ejler Andersen, Viborg \$3, Mrs. Lillie Jor-
gensen, Viborg \$1, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Jorgensen, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Kjersgaard and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Jorgensen of Irene \$5. Total \$9
for Home Mission. Mrs. Laurence Nielsen and sons, Irene, and Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Peterson, Viborg \$4, Turkey Valley Luth. Ladies Aid
\$5. Total for the Pension Fund \$9. Grand total \$18.00.

SPECIAL MISSIONS

	Total Received	Japan Mission	South Amer. Mission	Santal Mission	Sudan Mission	Jewish Mission	China Mission	L.W.A.	Gen. Fd. Foreign Missions
Previously acknowledged	54582.83	13589.62	10635.14	12448.57	11175.77	708.03	426.54	5161.16	438.00
Racine, Wis., Mr. and Mrs. Soren Christensen	30.00	10.00		10.00	10.00				
Kaysville, Utah, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Lamp in memory of mother, Mrs. Ane Marie Nielsen	3.00		3.00						
Lynwood, Calif., St. Paul's Luth. Church for salary of Rev. Paul Johnsen for March and April	600.00	600.00							
Hutchinson, Minn., Main Street Luth. Church for the All Lu- theran World Appeal, a branch of the L.W.A.	149.00							149.00	
Moorhead, Minn., Mrs. Othilia Hauge and Ruth in memory of Pastor Peder Hauge	15.00	10.00							
Milwaukee, Ore., Miss Shirley Hansen	15.00				5.00				
Milltown, Wis., Milltown Ladies Aid	15.00				15.00		15.00		
Del Rey, Calif., Miss Ida Petersen in memory of Mrs. Kather- ine Krum	2.50							2.50	
Coutler, Ia., Nazareth Luth. Church	38.16			38.16					
Fairchild, Wis., Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson	10.00		5.00			5.00			
Fremont, Nebr., First Luth. Sunday School	26.19	26.19							
Denver, Colo., the Andrew Kirkegaard and the Niels Andersen families in memory of their aunt, Mrs. Mary Lund	18.00			18.00					
Turkey Valley, S. D., Mr. and Mrs. Grant Jensen and Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Tanderup in memory of Just Peterson, Irene, S. D.	3.00							3.00	
Northfield, Minn., St. Peter's Luth. S. S. for support of a Japan- ese worker	85.00	85.00							
Oshkosh, Wis., Our Savior's Luth. Church	72.25							72.25	
Culbertson, Mont., Mr. and Mrs. Immanuel Larsen in memory of C. P. Hansen, Cedar Falls, Ia.	5.00		5.00						
Luck, Wis., in memory of Mrs. James Petersen from a group of friends	11.50		11.50						
Chicago, Ill., Atonement Women's Missionary Society	200.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00				
Cushing, Nebr., St. John Luth. Ladies Aid	25.00							25.00	
Beresford, S. D., Nazareth Luth. South Circle in memory of Just Petersen, Irene, S. D.	2.00							2.00	
Penn Yan, N. Y., St. Paul's Ladies Aid	10.00				10.00				
Rapid City, S. D., in memory of Francis A. Smith: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Knudsen and family \$2, Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Knudsen \$2	4.00							4.00	
Illinois District W.M.S. for a native Bible teacher	100.00	100.00							
N. Dak.-Montana Dist. for a native student in the Santal field.	84.60			84.60					
Iowa Dist. WMS. Mrs. P. Thorson, Ringsted, Ia.	15.00	5.00	5.00		5.00				
Atlantic, Ia., WMS honoring S. B. Larsen's 50th anniversary	5.00	5.00							
Elk Horn, Ia., Danish Ladies Aid	10.00		10.00						
Jacksonville, Ia., Junior Mission League	1.50		1.50						
The Wisconsin Dist. WMS for Helen M. Jacobsen's salary	70.00				70.00				
Oregon, Wis., St. John's Ladies Aid for Helen Danielson's salary	35.00		35.00						
Racine, Wis., Our Savior's WMS	25.00		25.00						
Waupaca, Wis., Trinity Bethel Ladies Aid	40.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00				
Neenah, Wis., Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Thomsen	10.00			10.00					
Denmark, Wis., the King's Daughters of Our Savior's Luth. Church for a Life Membership of Mrs. J. H. Thomsen of Denmark, Wis.	10.00								
TOTAL	56328.53	14490.81	10796.14	12669.33	11360.77	713.03	441.54	5418.91	438.00

LAUNDRY AND EQUIPMENT, OAKS, OKLA.

Previously acknowledged	\$364.89
Royal, Ia., Julia Jensen	20.00
Total	\$384.89

Received with thanks.

Blair, Nebr., March 6th, 1954.

H. J. Hansen, Treasurer.

OUR HOME MISSIONS

(Continued from page 3)

ent place of worship is somewhat adequate and the is cheap.

POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANSION. In view of the that all our vacancies will soon be supplied with ors and we may experience difficulties in placing our nary graduates in a year or two we must think d and plan for new fields. Men are being called to enter the ministry and we are failing as a

Church if we can not see the great need for expansion and use the opportunities given us. There are men who want to serve in the ministry. There is no shortage of good fields where we are given opportunity to begin new congregations, but there is a shortage of money for capital investment. Through our members on the Regional Committees we have gotten several new fields, one in California and one in Colorado. We ought also to think about opening a field in one of our Midwestern states. I would like to encourage the district presidents (all of whom are members of Regional Committees) to be on the alert for good fields, especially in the Midwest.

CONFERENCE IMPRESSIONS

(Continued from page 7)

he afternoon session stands out in my mind. Representatives from rural areas came to report on the situation in their respective places. Euripides Mora from Mocuy said he had noted a definite change in the attitude of neighbors who previously were unfriendly toward the Evangelicals. This is an encouraging sign and indicates that the testimony of God's children is bearing

the Parpa chapel was destroyed and their school closed four years ago. During the Christmas season of they gathered for public services the first time in years. The Christians were deeply moved. They chosen Hilma Bello, a teacher and graduate of our Institute, as their official representative to the Conference. She told of their plans and hopes of reopening a school and of building another chapel. There is yet no guarantee that hostilities will not be renewed when they begin to have regular services again. Fear and tension have not vanished, but they feel keenly the need of a spiritual ministry for themselves and for children.

was very interesting to hear the reports from the

different missionaries and to get as it were a bird's-eye view of the whole field. There were also reports from Pastor Olger Quanrud, Valborg Torkelson and Elizabeth Heerde who are now home on furlough.

Our first national pastors have just completed their seminary training in Argentina. It is with joy we welcome them back to Colombia. Pausanias Wilches will have a year of internship under the supervision of Gerhard Ostrem, pastor of the Bogota church. Gerardo Wilches, a cousin, will try to reopen work in the plains region if that proves possible. We receive them back into our fellowship with the prayer that their ministry among their own people may be a fruitful one.

Harold Olson, Joyce Bergh, Leticia Corzo and Rodrigo Quintero will carry on their important work at the Bible Institute and Training School. Helen Danielson continues as the faithful parish worker of "El Redentor" church in Bogota. Belva Nerlien will be in Tunja, capital of Boyaca, together with a Colombian evangelist and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Octavio Lopez. Pastor Morck continues with literature and student work in Medellin. Everardo Correa will assist as translator. This year I am joining the staff in Medellin and count it a great responsibility but also a great privilege to be able to devote myself to the work which for many years has been very close to my heart.

NOTICE

the 58th Annual Convention of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Audubon, Iowa, June 15-20,

Hans C. Jersild, President.

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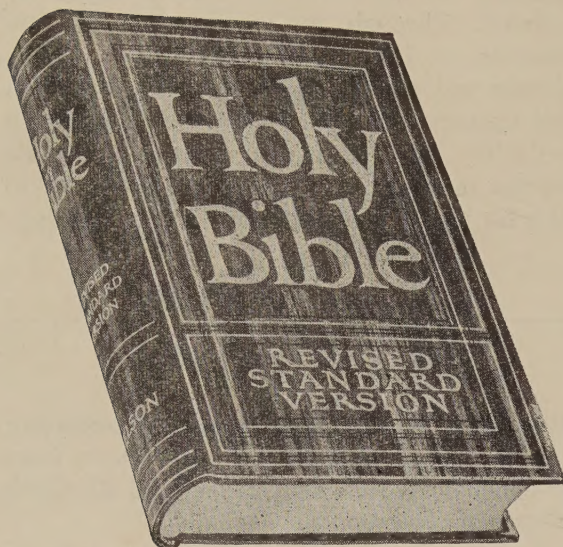


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